

Today's News - Tuesday, June 10, 2014

- Kennicott minces no words about what he thinks of the 9/11 Memorial Museum: "a hellish descent into a dark place" that "overwhelms - or more literally undermines - the dignified power of Arad's memorial...a monster of cultural self-indulgence."
- Pogrebin, on a brighter museum news note, reports that the Frick wants to "expand beyond jewel-box spaces" with a new six-story wing by Davis Brody Bond, though it "could face opposition for altering one of New York's beloved historic buildings."
- Davidson really, really wants to like Adjaye's Sugar Hill affordable housing project in Harlem, but "it's a shame that it turned out so grim - in every other way it's a model for the kind of high-design, low-cost housing that the city needs...but not by a design that hobbles worthy ambitions with extravagant misjudgment."
- Webb is more than a bit wow'd by H&deM's Pérez Art Museum in Miami: "Revisionist and inclusive, PAMM can become a point of focus and pride for a fragmented, multicultural metropolis that has yet to forge a strong civic identity."
- Kuramata's "iconic, compact, modestly postmodern" sushi bar in Tokyo heads to Hong Kong's M+ Museum.
- Lubell reports that UC Santa Cruz Institute of the Arts and Sciences commission goes to Tod Williams Billie Tsien by "showing a real sensitivity to the landscape": "TWBT called the site one of the most beautiful they have ever worked on."
- An urban planner bemoans "the fall of planning expertise," and ponders a crucial question: "Is the power and politics now vested in 'community participation' undermining the planning profession?"
- Phelan ponders Ban's Pritzker win and whether he deserves it: "the question for critics is whether he won on artistic and technical merit, or for his pro bono work in disaster zones. Ethics are one thing, aesthetics another."
- Abrahamson, on the other hand (and from the other side of the Big Pond), cheers Saffron's Pulitzer win for her "attention to unglamorous yet nonetheless powerful players in the life (or death) of the city's streets. American cities need more advocates for better buildings, landscapes and streets" like her.
- Wainwright wishes a happy 50th birthday to the New York State Pavilion: it "astonished visitors to the 1964 World's Fair. Is it about to stage a comeback?"
- Ah, Venezia: Q&A with Eisenman re: Koolhaas: he's "used the biennale to announce the end of his 'hegemony' over the profession": "He is the archistar and now he is the curator star. He's killed all the archistars."
- Kats's Q&A with Obrist re: the Swiss Pavilion and "why he hopes that Lucius Burckhardt will become a household name the world over."
- Bernstein snaps pix at the Golden Lions presentations to Lambert and the Korean and Chilean Pavilions.
- Wainwright tours Korea's "Utopian Tours" - a trip to "the brave new world North Korean architects would build if there were no constraints," where "Bjarke Ingles meets Frank Lloyd Wright" (with pix to prove it).
- Rosenblum surveys some of the more interesting exhibits that "deal with ruins or neglected buildings that once embodied the modernist promise of a new future," or embody "a more methodical study of the essence of modernism, or of the modernist history in their country."
- NCARB gets behind "an alternative - and optional - path to licensure that would permit candidates to be licensed upon graduation" that "could potentially shave years off the licensure process."
- Call for entries (deadline reminder): HYP Cup 2014 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: Unexpected City" + RFP: Research Proposals on Land Policy and Urban Development in Latin America.

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The 9/11 Memorial Museum doesn't just display artifacts, it ritualizes grief on a loop: ...structured like our memories of the day, a hellish descent into a dark place...It also overwhelms — or more literally undermines — the dignified power of Arad's memorial...this is the great, subterranean cathedral of America Militant, Suffering and Exceptional...a monster of cultural self-indulgence. By Philip Kennicott -- Snohetta; Michael Arad; Thinc Design; Davis Brody Bond [images] - Washington Post

Frick Collection Seeks to Expand Beyond Jewel-Box Spaces: ...plans for a new six-story wing...could face opposition for altering one of New York's beloved historic buildings...will also require the approval of city landmark officials... By Robin Pogrebin -- Davis Brody Bond [images] - New York Times

In Harlem, the Sugar Hill Complex Reimagines Affordable Housing As an Arty Fortress: ...clad in storm-cloud-colored concrete...it glowers forbiddingly...Adjaye rightly rejects the brick box model of public housing...Why, then, replace it with a dead-eyed guard tower? It's a shame that [it] turned out so grim, because in every other way it's a model for the kind of high-design, low-cost housing that the city needs...but not by a design that hobbles worthy ambitions with extravagant misjudgment. By Justin Davidson -- David Adjaye [images] - New York Magazine

Miami Virtue: Pérez Art Museum in Miami by Herzog & de Meuron: ...a consciously anti-iconic museum for modern art...Terence Riley made it clear he didn't want an icon, and this was welcome news to the architects... Revisionist and inclusive, PAMM can become a point of focus and pride for a fragmented, multicultural metropolis that, like LA, has yet to forge a strong civic identity. By Michael Webb -- Patrick Blanc [images] - Architectural Review (UK)

Shiro Kuramata's iconic sushi bar heads to Hong Kong museum: ...once known as the Kiyotomo sushi bar, a compact, modestly postmodern space tucked into one of the backstreets of Tokyo's Shinbashi district...M+, the still-unopened "museum of visual culture" acquired the bar's facade and interior... -- Eric Chen/M+; Kizae Yamashita [images] - Japan Times

Land Matters: Tod Williams Billie Tsien chosen for UC Santa Cruz Institute of the Arts and Sciences: "They're avoiding monumental gestures and monumental scale and showing a real sensitivity to the landscape. That seemed appropriate"...TWBT called the site one of the most beautiful they have ever worked on. By Sam Lubell -- TEF [images] - The Architect's Newspaper

The Fall of Planning Expertise: With increasing skepticism and conflict towards planners and planning projects, we must ask ourselves: Is the power and politics now vested in "community participation" undermining the planning profession? ...we have lost respect for "experts"...the profession has actually surrendered its influence...Ultimately, can we do anything about this? The quick answer is: maybe. By Reuben Duarte/Gresham Savage Nolan & Tilden- PLANetizen

Architecture in Extremis: This week, Shigeru Ban will receive the Pritzker Architecture Prize. Does he deserve it? ...the question for critics is whether he won on artistic and technical merit, or for his pro bono work in disaster zones...Ethics are one thing, aesthetics another...[his] private commissions were not nearly so impressive...In the world that Ban wants to build, steel is not necessarily cold, and paper can last longer than concrete. By Stephen Phelan - Boston Review

The 2014 Pulitzer Prize Celebrates On-The-Ground Architectural Criticism: Inga Saffron takes the long view of urban transformation and pays attention to unglamorous yet nonetheless powerful players in the life (or death) of the city's streets...American cities need more advocates for better buildings, landscapes and streets who have the tirelessness and humility of Inga Saffron. By Michael Abrahamson - Architectural Review (UK)

Where the Masai met Mickey Mouse: happy 50th birthday to the New York State Pavilion: With its soaring space-age turrets, its candy-striped roof and its Tent of Tomorrow, the New York State Pavilion astonished visitors to the 1964 World's Fair. Is it about to stage a comeback? By Oliver Wainwright -- Philip Johnson; Robert Moses; People for the Pavilion [images, links] - Guardian (UK)

Q&A: Rem Koolhaas is stating "the end" of his career, says Peter Eisenman: ...Koolhaas has used the biennale to announce the end of his "hegemony" over the profession, according to Eisenman...You taught all the archistars..."He is the archistar and now he is the curator star. He's killed all the archistars, and now he is going [to be the] single curator star." By Valentina Ciuffi- [Dezeen](#)

Hans Ulrich Obrist On the Swiss Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale: ...his reaction to Biennale director Rem Koolhaas's request that national pavilion curators consider the influence of modernization on the past century of architecture...and why he hopes that Lucius Burckhardt will become a household name the world over. By Anna Kats -- Cedric Price; Atelier Bow-Wow [slide show]- [Artinfo](#)

Venice Dispatch: Golden Lions for Phyllis Lambert and Korean Pavilion: ...Canada, France and Russia received "special mentions"...second place award—the Silver Lion—was Chile... By Fred A. Bernstein -- Minsuk Cho; Pedro Alonso; Hugo Palmarola [slide show]- [Architectural Record](#)

Hovership holidays: North Korean architects shake up tourism: From hovership holiday homes to high-tech tree-houses and pink boudoirs perfect for Lady Penelope..."Utopian Tours" shows the brave new world North Korean architects would build if there were no constraints...in the Korean Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale (which won the Golden Lion for best pavilion). By Oliver Wainwright [images]- [Guardian \(UK\)](#)

In the Floating City, an architecture of modernism: the Venice Biennale: The split between North and South Korea, an index of architecture in the Arab world, a project on parliament buildings around the globe, and lots of Rem Koolhaas: Many pavilions...deal with ruins or neglected buildings that once embodied the modernist promise of a new future. More affluent countries...are conducting a more methodical study of the essence of modernism, or of the modernist history in their country. By Keshet Rosenblum - [Ha'aretz \(Israel\)](#)

NCARB Supports Faster Path to Licensure: ...an alternative—and optional—path to licensure that would permit candidates to be licensed upon graduation from an accredited program...could potentially shave years off the licensure process and help young designers ascend to the ranks (and, crucially, salaries) of full-fledged architects faster...unlikely that a one-size-fits-all approach...will emerge..."but I'm only positive on what this would be if it begins to spread." - [Architectural Record](#)

Call for entries deadline reminder: HYP Cup 2014 International Student Competition: "Architecture in Transformation: Unexpected City"; cash prizes; registration deadline: June 30 (submissions due: August 31)- [Urban Environment Design \(UED\) Magazine \(China\)](#) / [International Union of Architects \(UIA\)](#)

Call for entries: Request for Proposals/RFP: Research Proposals on Land Policy and Urban Development in Latin America; deadline: July 7- [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#)



-- We Wouldn't Mind Getting Stuck There: Airports: Airports are places where people gather voluntarily in a collective state of wanting to leave. In some cases, however, the long walk to the terminal can be a quite rewarding experience. -- Ricardo Bofill/Taller de Arquitectura; Rafael Viñoly; Foster & Partners; Santiago Calatrava; UNStudio
-- Travel guide: Marseille and Vicinity

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